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To: All Providers and Software Vendors

RE: Draft Companion Guides are Now Available

EDS is implementing a new claims processing system on May 23, 2007 to accommodate the changes that NPI requires. Some of the required fields in the HIPAA companion guides will be rewritten to facilitate the changes as well. A **draft** of the companion guide can be found on our website at the following address:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/billing/npi_companion_guides.aspx

Providers that use a vendor should make sure that their vendor is aware of the changes and is updating their software to accommodate them. If your software vendor has questions about the companion guide, they can contact our Electronic Claims Submission Department at 1-800-456-1242. Providers who have questions about NPI can contact their provider representative at 1-800-688-7989.

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